

mination of the Degrees of Mortality, in order to adjust the valuation of annuities on lives, founded, as he informs us, upon a table of observations of the births and deaths in the City of Breslaw in Silesia. *Rees' Cyclo. v. Halley*. Soon after, the Observations on Chronology, involving similar considerations as to the duration of human life, were published by Sir \*Isaac Newton. *Rees' Cyclo. v. Newton*; 1 *Niebuhr's Rome*, 285; 16 *Westm. Rev.* 328. In the year 1746, M. Deparcieux published his Observations on the Rate of Mortality as it occurred among the nominees of two tontines in France, from 1695 to 1740; and on great numbers of monks and nuns in France, who died in the century preceding. *Finlaison's Report*, &c. 8; 2 *Price Obser.* 454. Subsequently to which, Abraham de Moivre, then of England, published his Essays on the Doctrine of Chances, and on Annuities. And it is said, that towards the close of his life, which happened in 1754, he was consulted on all questions relating to chances, gaming, and annuities, and by his answers chiefly subsisted. *Rees' Cyclo. v. De Moivre*; 9 *Westm. Rev.* 421. In the year 1740, Thomas Simpson, an eminent English mathematician, published a Treatise on the Nature and Laws of Chance; soon after which he published a small volume on the Doctrine of Annuities and Reversions, deduced from general and evident principles, with useful tables shewing the values of single and joint lives. And in the year 1752, appeared his work entitled, Select Exercises for Young Proficients in Mathematics. *Rees' Cyclo. v. Simpson*. In the year 1771, Doctor Richard Price, an eminent Englishman, published his celebrated work in relation to this matter, entitled, "Observations on Reversionary Payments," &c. The seventh edition of which enlarged and improved by William Morgan, was published in 1812.<sup>(n)</sup> The public attention, in Great Britain, had not only been thus repeatedly called to this subject, by the publications of these eminent men; but a very great importance had been given to it by the formation, or legal incorporation, from the year 1706 to 1765, of many societies and bodies politic, for the granting of annuities and insurances upon lives; *Price Obser.* 72, 97, 104, 109, 119, 142, 158, 9 *Westm. Rev.* 389; and still more so, by the government's undertaking in 1692; and still continuing to raise revenue by the sale of annuities for life and for years. 4 W. & M. c. 3, s. 18; 5 W. & M. c. 5 and 20; 1 Ann. Stat. 2, c. 5. In reference to which governmental interest in the matter, it has been lately taken up in the House of Commons, and investigated with great care.<sup>(o)</sup>

(n) Since that time Arthur Morgan, in the year 1834, published a set of "Tables shewing the total number of persons assured in the Equitable Society, (London,) from its commencement in September, 1762, to January, 1829," &c.

(o) The report from the select committee on life annuities, 4 June, 1829; The report of John Finlaison, actuary of the national debt, on the evidence